

Appl. No. 10/816,697
Reply to Office action dated March 17, 2008
Attorney Docket 126533-1

REMARKS

Claims 19-26 and 30-35 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claim 19 is amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not add claims without deleting an appropriate number of claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. This Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of this Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the May 16, 2008 telephone Interview. The sum and substance of the Interview is contained in the above amendments and the following Remarks.

The Office action rejects Claims 19-23, 25, 26 and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,378,247, hereinafter "Sasaki"), and Claims 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Barnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,770,327, hereinafter "Barnett") in view of Sasaki.

As agreed during the Interview, the amended Claim 19 distinguishes over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Chuo believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the

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filings of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 07-0868 in the name of General Electric Company.

Respectfully submitted,

19 May 2008

/Peter J. Rashid/

Peter J. Rashid
Reg. No. 39,464

Telephone: (810) 227-9077